

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 2 as follows:

In this technique, for example, since a photosensitive drum is pivotally rotated around a shaft as a center, respective image forming processes constructed of a charging process, an exposing process, a developing process, and a transferring (primary transferring) process are carried out. If the respective apparatuses for executing these image forming processes are made in no contact with respect to this photosensitive drum, then the pivotal rotation of this photosensitive drum may be controlled based upon only variable elements ~~owned by~~ of the photosensitive drum. However, even in such a case that, for instance, a developing device for forming a single color image is employed in addition to such a tracking roller as described in the above-explained patent publication [[1]], when an abutting function is provided in which a predetermined member abuts against a photosensitive drum due to a predetermined positioning aspect, the following problem may occur. That is, weight produced when these members abut against the photosensitive drum may cause such a problem with respect to this photosensitive drum. This contact (abutting) problem with respect to an image carrier such as a photosensitive drum may similarly occur even in the case that a transfer apparatus such as a transfer belt which abuts against this image carrier is employed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 13 as follows:

To achieve the above-described objects, an image forming apparatus, to which the present invention is applied, employs, for example, a developing agent carrier for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrier, and also, a first contacting unit corresponding to a member capable of maintaining a distance between the image carrier and the ~~own member~~ developing agent carrier. This first contacting unit is contacted to the image carrier along a predetermined weight direction. Also, while a second contacting unit is employed, this second contacting unit is contacted with respect to the image carrier in a wrap shape. The second contacting unit corresponds to, for example, an elastic belt which is followed by receiving driving force of the image carrier. The predetermined weight direction by this first contacting unit is intersected with the wrap-shaped contact range by the second contacting unit.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 13, line 7 as follows:

Fig. ~~5A and 5B~~ 5 is an explanatory ~~diagrams~~ diagram for explaining changes in weight directions caused by pivotal rotations of a developing device;

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 12 as follows:

This developing apparatus 14 corresponds to the rotary type developing apparatus, and is provided with four developing devices ~~[[5]]~~ 50. The four developing devices 50 contain four color toners in order to produce four color toner images, namely a yellow (Y)-color toner image, a magenta (M)-color toner image, a cyan (C)-color toner image, and a black (K)-color toner image. A developing roller 51 is provided on a circumference of the developing apparatus 14.

The developing roller 51 corresponds to a developing agent carrier, which may develop latent images formed on the photosensitive drum 11. Since the developing apparatus 14 is pivotally rotated at a rotation angle of 90 degrees while a developing apparatus center 14a is set as a center, the developing roller 51 equipped by the desirable developing device 50 may be located opposite to the photosensitive drum 11. Concretely speaking, with respect to one color print output, the respective color (Y, M, C, K) developing devices 50 are located opposite to the photosensitive drum 11 in this color order, so that a full-color print output may be produced. Also, these developing devices 50 are arranged in such a manner that these developing devices 50 are depressed on a normal by plural coil springs 55 positioned on the developing apparatus center 14a, a tracking roller (will be explained later) used in positioning operation can surely abut against the photosensitive drum 11. The photosensitive drum 11 is pivotally rotated along an arrow direction (namely, clockwise direction) shown in this drawing, whereas the developing apparatus 14 is pivotally rotated along a counter-clockwise direction in order that the pivotal rotation (along clockwise direction) of the photosensitive drum 11 becomes equal to movement along the tangential direction. Since the pivotal rotation of the photosensitive drum 11 is made coincident with the movement along the tangential direction, the shocks given to this photosensitive drum 11 can be reduced in the case that the tracking roller is made in contact with this photosensitive drum 11 while having a predetermined trail.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 34, line 19 as follows:

Fig. ~~5A and Fig. 5B are diagrams~~ 5 is a diagram for explaining a change in weight directions, which is caused by pivotal rotations of the developing device 50. Fig. ~~[[5A]]~~ 5 represents a relationship among the photosensitive drum 11, the developing apparatus 14, and the intermediate transfer belt ~~15~~. ~~Fig. 5B is~~ 15, and includes an explanatory diagram for explaining synthesized weight which is obtained when the tracking roller 52 is firstly contacted to the photosensitive drum 11 since the developing device 50 is pivotally rotated. As explained with reference to Fig. 1, since the developing apparatus 14 is pivotally rotated every rotation angle of 90 degrees around the developing apparatus center 14a as the center, the developing roller 51 provided in the desirable developing devices 50 is located opposite to the photosensitive drum 11. At this time, as shown in Fig. ~~[[5A]]~~ 5, the tracking roller 52 which is coaxially provided with the developing roller 51 is made in contact with the photosensitive drum 11 at a first contact point "A" since the developing apparatus 14 (developing 50) is pivotally rotated. As previously explained with reference to Fig. 1. In the developing apparatus 14, the coil spring ~~[[51]]~~ 55 is employed in each of the four color developing devices 50, and the relevant developing device 50 is depressed by the coil spring 55 thereof along the tangential direction.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 35, line 16 as follows:

As represented in Fig. ~~[[5B]]~~ 5, the following abstraction may be considered. That is, while both weight along a center axial direction produced by this coil spring 55 and movement weight (namely, weight along tangential direction over circumference in developing apparatus 14) produced in connection with the pivotal rotation of the developing device 50 are exerted to the first contact point "A" due to the pivotal rotation of the developing device 50, the weight produced by synthesizing the weight along the center axial direction with the weight along the tangential direction is exerted to the photosensitive drum 11. This synthesized weight corresponds to a vector of the synthesized weight. At this time, as indicated in Fig. ~~[[5A]]~~ 5, in this embodiment, an extension line along the direction of this synthesized weight is also entered into the wrap range. Thereafter, a cross point is also moved due to a trail of the tracking roller 52, and then, becomes a cross point during the developing operation. Since the image forming apparatus is arranged in such a way that this cross range entirely belongs to the wrap range, such a problem may be solved. That is, the central axis of the photosensitive drum 11 is shifted by the eccentric weight which is produced by pivotally rotating the developing device 50 with respect to the photosensitive drum 11.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 37, line 8 as follows:

When a further investigation is made, the adverse influence caused by the pivotal rotation of the developing apparatus 14 may also occur in such a case that the photosensitive drum 11 is separated from the contact point "B" during the developing operation. In other words, after the developing operation is ended, since the developing device 50 is pivotally rotated in order to

replace the present developing device by the next developing device, the tracking roller 52 is pivotally rotated from the position of the contact point "B" during the developing operation shown in Fig. ~~[[5A]]~~ 5 along the counter-clockwise direction shown in this drawing. It is preferable that a vector direction of such a weight is directed to the wrap range, while this weight is obtained by synthesizing dynamic weight produced in connection with this pivotal rotation of the tracking roller 52 with another weight produced by that the tracking roller 52 depresses the photosensitive drum 11 by the coil spring 55. While the tracking roller 52 is separated from the photosensitive drum 11 by such a predetermined trail, if it is so featured that the direction along which the tracking roller 52 depresses the photosensitive drum 11 due to this trail is located within such a range (wrap range) that the intermediate transfer belt 15 abuts against the circumferential portion of the photosensitive drum 11 in the wrap shape, then such a problem caused by eccentric weight produced when the tracking roller 52 is separated from the photosensitive drum 11 can be reduced.